# **Rhode Island**

## A. STATE-AT-A-GLANCE

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1)	Program Operation	State operated, 1 state-wide office
2)	Number of Local Offices (excluding Agencies under Cooperative Agreements)	None
3)	Type of Agencies with Cooperative Agreements	R.I.FAMILY COURT, R.I. DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, R.I. DEPT. FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES, VITAL RECORDS
4)	Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	NOLegislation introduced 1996
5)	Agreements With Tribal Entities	NONE
6)	Age of Majority for Termination of Support	18
7)	Statutes of Limitation:	NONE
	• Collection of Past Due Support	NONE
	• Paternity Establishment	NONE
	Dormancy Revival/Renewal Possible [yes/no]	NO
8)	Guidelines	Obligor gross income
9)	Interest Rates on	
	• Missed Payments	YES
	• Retroactive Support	Not applicable
	• Adjudicated Arrearage	YES
10)	Arrearage Collections for Non- minor Child(ren)	NO
11)	Distribution Scheme	AFDC arrearages prioritized, as default, unless specific court orders exist.
	AFDC Arrears	1st priority
	• Non-AFDC Arrears	2nd priority, unless court ordered as 1st priority
12)	Procedures Regarding Medical Support Using Income	YES

	Withholding	
13)	New Hire Reporting	NO
14)	Recovery of Costs Elected Under State Plan	NO
15)	Recovery of Costs for Initiating State	NO
16)	Long-Arm Statute/s Citation/s	YES
17)	<b>Automated Locate Resources</b>	YES
18)	<b>Enforcement Options</b>	
	• License Revocation/ Suspension	YES
	• Administrative Liens	YES
	Property Seizure & Sale	YES
	• State Funds/Benefits (please specify)	Unemployment compensation, Workmens Compensation
	Other (please specify)	Lottery winnings, insurance settlements over \$10,000, bank accounts, stocks, etc.
19)	Spousal Maintenance Orders (specify yes or no)	
	• Establish	NO
	• Enforce	YES
	• Modify	NO
20)	Current Spouse/Partner Information Required	NO

## B. UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT

1)	State Code Citation	Not applicable
2)	Effective Date	Not applicable
3)	Adopted Verbatim? If no, list differences.	Not applicable
4)	Repeal URESA?	Not applicable

5) Repeal IWW?	Not applicable
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# C. INCOME WITHHOLDING

1)	Income Withholding Terminology	Wage Withholding
2)	<b>Income Withholding Procedures</b>	Issued at time of court appearance
	• State Withholding Limits	50% of disposable income if earner is supporting another dependent and 60 % if no dependents. 55 to 65% if arrearage amt. has been delinquent for 12 or more weeks
	• Fee Charged by Employers	\$2.00 per withholding
	• Date to Remit	Payments must be remitted within 10 days of the date of income
	• Penalty	Fines for failure to withhold, contempt proceedings
3)	Definition of Employer	Any person or organization having any person in employment
4)	Included Income	WAGES and Unemployment Compensation
5)	<b>Excluded Income</b>	Self-employment income, public assistance, Social Security, SSI
6)	Direct Income Withholding for Unemployment Compensation, include address	YES
7)	Direct Income for Workers' Compensation, include address	NO
8)	Direct Income Withholding, other income sources subject to, include address	NO
9)	Direct Income Withholding, list Other Income Sources NOT subject to	NO
10)	Federal Withholding (See Federal Pay Agents Section)	IV-D Directors need not answer this question.
11)	Procedures for Contesting Income Withholding	Obligor has 10 days after process service to appeal during Court Hearing
12)	Arrearages through Income Withholding	YES
13)	Enforcing Against Non-Resident Obligor Asset/Income	YES, if order registered in R.I.
14)	Exception to Immediate Withholding	NO

15) Multiple Obligations Withholding Priorities	Each obligee shall be allocated an amt. In the proportion that each obligee's current support order bears relative to the total of all amts. for current support
• Policy	YES
• Priority	Current Support first, the remaining allocated in amts. proportional to each arrearage order
• Assistance	URA is prorated among APs
• Allocation	Applied by Child Support automated system per prescribed algorithms

### **D. PATERNITY**

1)	Interstate Paternity Procedures	Long Arm Statute enforced first. If unsuccessful, URESA
	<b>Consent Orders Obtained</b>	NO
2)	Uniform Parentage Act	YES
3)	<b>Uniform Act on Blood Testing</b>	YES
4)	Parentage Order Available Without Order for Support	NO
5)	Custody/Visitation Addressed Subject to Tribunal's Jurisdiction	NO
6)	Genetic Test Results as Presumption of Paternity	YES
	Threshold	97%
7)	Paternity Acknowledgment as Presumption of Paternity (Rebuttable/Conclusive)	YES
8)	Marriage as Presumption of Paternity	YES, if child conceived while parties were married
9)	Putative Father's Name on Birth Certificate, Effect of	Only included if he agrees prior to court action. If court decrees he is the father, it is placed on birth certificated automatically.
10)	Other Statutory Presumptions	NO
11)	Recognition of Common Law Marriage	Yes, couple living together as husband & wife (same address, same bank account) recognized by community as husband & wife.
12)	Personal Appearance of Witness	YES

	or Custodial Parent Required	
	Acceptable Methods of Testimony	Verbal or notarized written
13)	Long-Arm Statute	Yes, if child conceived in R.I.
14)	Assistance to Other States Using Their Long-Arm Statutes	YES
	• Service of Process	YES
	• Genetic Testing	YES
15)	Recovery of Genetic Testing Costs for Other States	YES

### E. SUPPORT ORDER ESTABLISHMENT

1)	Interstate Procedures	Same as for in-state cases
2)	Income Considered for Setting Support	Obligor's income as presented by initiating jurisdiction (gross income)
3)	Criteria for Rebuttal	None
4)	Support Order for Prior Periods	NO

#### F. ENFORCEMENT

(Note: If multiple orders, see Part "G")

#### I. ENFORCING YOUR OWN ORDER

1)	Enforcement for Non-Resident Family	YES
2)	Administrative Procedures and Remedies Available	Administrative wage withholding and R.I. license revocation, liens, levies
3)	Judicial Procedures and Remedies Available with Registration	Obligor is notified of registration. Can request court hearing

#### II. ENFORCING OTHER STATES' ORDERS

4)	Administrative Procedures and Remedies Available Without	None
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	Registration	
5)	Judicial/Administrative Remedies with Registration	Prefer URESA referral
6)	UIFSA/URESA Registration and Enforcement Procedure	Only URESA
7)	Judicial Procedures Required after Registration	None
8)	Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act Citation	Yes

### G. MODIFICATION/REVIEW & ADJUSTMENT OF ORDERS

1)	Jurisdiction Requirements	Federal regulations are followed
2)	<b>Modification Procedures</b>	Increase/decrease in income, increase in need
3)	Criteria for Modification	Change of circumstances/time elapsed
4)	Criteria for Change of Circumstances	Proof of need;proof of increased ability (income)
5)	Frequency With Which Reviews are Conducted	Every year upon request of AP,CP or guardian. At least every 3 yrs. For AFDC cases.
6)	Criteria for Review	Timely request/age of order
7)	Criteria for Adjustment	Proof justifying modification

### H. MULTIPLE ORDERS

#### ENFORCEMENT AND MODIFICATION

1)	Controlling Order	Order most recently entered
2)	Date of Controlling Order	Most recent
3)	If No Controlling Order	New order entered
4)	Arrears Procedure	Arrears certified by Family Court if AFDC (non-AFDC affidavit)

## I. Documentation Required to Initiate Requests

ACTION REQUESTED	DOCUMENTS NEEDED	# of Copie s of each document	Certification required for each document  *See below
Establishment of Paternity and Support	Uniform Support Petition with accompanying documentation	3	В
Enforcement of Responding State's Order	Uniform Support Petition	3	В
Modification of Responding States' Orders	Uniform Support Petition with accompanying proof	3	В
Administrative Enforcement of Another States' Order	Not available		
Registration for Enforcement of Another States' Order	3 certified copies of Order Uniform Support Petition	3	С
Collection of Arrearages in Multiple Orders	Uniform Support Petition  Defendent/Respondent payment history	3	В
Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act	Uniform Support Petition, General URESA Testimony	3	С
Modification of Another State's Order	Not applicable		
Status Update on an Existing Interstate Case	Request in writing either by URESA or agency form	1	
Assistance/Discovery	As requested		
Quick Locate	Written locate request	1	

<sup>\*</sup>A = Notarization by Notary Public; B = Certification by signature of agency official;

C= Certification by signature of court official; D= Others (please specify);

E= Certification not required

## J. State Contact Chart

ASSISTANCE NEEDED	CONTACT Name, Title, Address, Phone, Fax, E-mail (include 800 if applicable)
State Information Agent	Out-of-State Supervisor R.I. Child Support Services 77 Dorrance Street Providence, R.I. 02903 Phone (401)277-2847 Fax: (401)274-6674
Central Registry	77 Dorrance Street Providence, R.I. 02903
Interstate Policy Contact (if different)	Mr. Robert Geremia R.I. Department of Human Services 600 New London Avenue Cranston, R.I. 02920 Phone: (401)464-2018
Contact for Information Regarding Your States Long Arm Statute and Process	Sharon Santilli, Esq. Asst. Chief Legal Counsel 110 Eddy Street Providence, R.I. 02903
Contact for Information Regarding Collection and Distribution (State level)	RICSS BUSINESS OFFICE 110 Eddy Street Providence, R.I. 02903
Contact to Obtain Payment Records	RICSS BUSINESS OFFICE
Contact to Obtain Copy of Order	RICSS Out-of-State Unit 77 Dorrance Street Providence, R.I. 02903
Contact for States Using Their Long Arm Statutes or Continuing Exclusive Jurisdiction (no "case" in your State) for	Individual Child Support Agents by alpha caseload designations. Initial contact with RICSS agency.
Service of Process  (private process server? If so, list)	YES-Multiplescontact: RICSS 77 Dorrance Street Providence, R.I. 02903

Genetic Testing ( e.g. assistance with interstate teleconferencing)	RICSS LEGAL OFFICE  110 Eddy Street  Providence, R.I. 02903
New Hire Reporting Contact	None
Employer Assistance Contact	Handled by individual child support agents by designated caseload. Contact RICSS.
Telephone Number for Automated Interstate Case <i>Status</i> Requests (if any)	Not applicable
Telephone Number for Automated Interstate Case <i>Payment</i> Requests (if any)	Not applicable
Privatization Contact	Not applicable